

The News Scimitar

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TAKING STOCK

Prudent merchants always take time enough out of their business to take stock, to see what they have on hand in the way of assets, to see what their liabilities are, so that they may proceed intelligently and with a clear understanding of what they are doing. Nations should do the same thing. This has been done for the nations by a leading New York banking institution, and its findings overturn a good many prophecies. Prophecies are seldom dependable. Wise politicians are in the habit of riding over a section of the country before every general election and on their return telling oracularly just how the people are going to vote. If the guess is wrong the prophet and the prophecy are forgotten. Before the war ended prophets told us that as soon as peace arrived wages would go down, production would slacken and a period of depression would follow. This has not been true. The world's business in 1919 amounted to \$70,000,000,000, and of this the United States did eleven billions, which was four billions more than the year 1914. The predicted fall of prices did not come, and does not appear to be anywhere in sight. The prophets were wrong again.

The war was enormously wasteful and has left the world not exactly bankrupt but much in debt. Even the strongest nations are crippled. England has no money to pay the interest now due on the money we lent her, and with England making default we need not look to any other debtor country for any principal or interest on what they owe us. Uncle Sam was trimmed good and proper.

For four and a half years the world consumed and destroyed more than it produced. It has been estimated that the direct loss caused by the war was \$186,000,000,000, and the indirect loss by stoppage of production was \$151,000,000,000, totaling \$337,000,000,000. As a result the leading nations are staggering under a load of national debt. The national debt of Great Britain is 45 per cent of her national wealth—nearly one-half. She is not producing wealth and her money, if she has any, is below par. Russia's national debt is 65 per cent of her national wealth, and Russia is one of the richest nations on the globe. The national debt of France is 55 per cent of her national wealth, and Italy owes 50 per cent of her national wealth. Austria-Hungary owes 90 per cent of her national wealth and Germany 57 per cent. In this category the United States occupies an enviable position with a national debt amounting to only 10 per cent of her national wealth, and this is being reduced because America is producing and exporting wealth. The balance of trade in our favor mounts up into the billions annually, which is encouraging if we can get paid for our goods. When a nation like England makes default we have a right to become suspicious of other creditors less able to pay. It would be poor business for us to keep on producing and exporting to customers who cannot pay.

And they cannot. They frankly tell us so, and also that unless we furnish them more money and more raw material they can never pay. The world is in a bad fix financially. America can produce finished wealth, food and clothing, while Europe can only enhance the value of raw material by manufacturing it and converting it into the finished product. Europe has labor and machinery but no raw material and no food nor money to pay labor. These things we are called upon to furnish, and it is going to be a heart-breaking task. We will fail in it if we do not conserve our forces and stop wasting. Last year labor troubles cost labor \$60,000,000 and cost capital \$12,000,000, while they cost the country in decreased production \$40,000,000. This is bad business, especially at a time when the world is depending on production to save society from destruction. It is wise and well for all nations to pause and take stock and see where they stand. The people of this most favored of countries should realize that they owe 10 cents on every dollar of their national wealth. When we add this to debts owing by states, cities, counties, corporations, and individuals, it may be found that the whole world is insolvent—that it owes more than it owns.

The only salvation lies in the production of wealth, and every energy should be exercised to the fullest extent in producing from the soil, from the mine, from the mill and factory, from the farm, the garden and the truck patch, from the flocks and herds and from every source where wealth may be obtained. The old mandate, "In the sweat of thy face thou shalt earn thy bread," is confronting the world as never before, and both individuals and nations should realize it and go to work with a will.

WATER POWER

Again the water power bill has passed the senate, this being the third or fourth time within the past three years, but this time with a fair prospect of enactment into law, as the house and senate conferees anticipate no difficulty in ironing out their differences.

For two and a half years this paper has been a consistent advocate of water power legislation, because it has felt that the development of the vast resources is an economic question that must inevitably be settled.

For many years the price of coal has steadily advanced. It is now commanding a price that places a heavy burden upon the large consumer, has become an important factor in the production of practically every commodity, and a vital matter in the question of transportation charges.

The development of water power will solve the problem. There are few enterprises that cannot be driven and lighted by electricity developed by water power, and at a cost much less than that which obtains where fuel, labor, transportation and disintegration are such factors.

The thousands of tons of coal that can be saved by the use of hydro-electric power will further conserve the coal supply of the nation, and make it available at a reasonable price for the household and for industries that must continue to rely upon it for heat and motive power.

On the other hand there is no such thing as exhausting the nation's water power. That part of it not utilized today is lost forever, but the supply is unending and inexhaustible.

Water power development is an economic measure of vast and vital importance, and no other country in the world of equal intelligence with the United States has been guilty of neglecting it for so long a period of time.

The Chicago Tribune says it is tired of platforms written by men afraid to lose votes. Is the Tribune about to repudiate the Republican theory that a platform is something to get in on?

England still denies Ireland independence and Ireland still affirms it.

Ain't It a Grand and Glorious Feelin'—By Briggs

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AFTER YOU'VE BEEN ON A RATHER JAZZY PARTY WITH THE BUNCH

AND ONE OF THE BUNCH INFORMS YOU NEXT DAY THAT THE "STUFF" CAME FROM A LITTLE ITALIAN CAFE UNDER SUSPICION OF SELLING WOOD ALCOHOL

—AND YOU BEGIN TO FEEL FUNNY IN THE EYES AND YOU THINK YOU MAY BE GOING BLIND



—AND YOU CONSULT YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR ABOUT IT WHO ISN'T PARTICULARLY CHEERFUL

—AND THEN YOU TRY AN OCULIST WHO EXAMINES THOROUGHLY YOUR OPTIC NERVE AND EVERYTHING

—AND TELLS YOU ITS ALL YOUR IMAGINATION — OH-H-H-H BOY! AIN'T IT A GR-AND AND GLOR-I-ROUS FEELIN'?



SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY.

To The News Scimitar:

In your issue of Jan. 13 you ask which of your readers recall five Sundays in February. February has five Sundays in it about every 36 years, according to my information. Am I right or not? Please answer through your question column. R. F. SHACKELFORD Humboldt, Tenn.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

BY MILDRED MARSHALL.

Facts about your name, its history, its meaning, whence it was derived, its significance, your lucky day and lucky jewel.

ROSE.

Rose by any other name would still be a rose, according to etymologists. The fortunate possessor of one of the most popular flower names has a charmingly fragrant origin. It seems that all countries and languages agree in expressing a rose by its color. Even the Syrian name for the oleander (rose laurel) is rodyon. Greece produced a Rhoda, which has since come to be a modern name of wide vogue.

The first feminine name to be connected with the fragrant flower called a rose were Rohais and Rosalia, which, curiously enough, are said to come from the French and Latin of hros, meaning fame, rather than from the flower. Rosalia is a name of the flower. Rosalia is a name of the flower. Rosalia is a name of the flower.

Everyone is familiar with the Rose of Tennyson's "Gardener's Daughter." Who has not heard of Rose, the Gardener's Daughter? Where was he? So blunt in memory, so old at heart, at such a distance from his youth in grief.

That, having seen, forgot? The common mouth. So groans to express delight, in praise of her. Grew oratory. Such a lord is Love, And Beauty such a mistress of the world.

The roses agree in Rose's tall, manly stone. It insures a bold heart and freedom from danger, if worn as an amulet. Tuesday is Rose's lucky day and 2 her lucky number. The wild rose is her flower. (Copyright, 1920, by the Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

To The News Scimitar:

Q. What is the definition of eligibility for membership in the American Legion?

A. An individual who served honorably in the army or navy of the United States between the date of our entrance into the war and the signing of the armistice, or who served in the army of our allies at any time during the war, is eligible for membership in the American Legion. This includes women (f) and army and navy nurses.

Q. Are men who have served in the war given any preference when they enter civil service? C. E. G.

A. Yes. A service man may pass a civil service examination with a mark of 65, while others must get 70. He may secure temporary appointment of three months prior to taking examinations. He is given preference in appointment over non-service applicants for the same rating. Physical requirements for specific positions for which he has taken vocational training are waived.

Q. What is the longest of our geographical Indian names? H. G. N.

A. The longest of these names is unchaugogochebungungungamaug. This lake is in Massachusetts and its name has recently been changed to Lake Webster. The word is of Algonquin origin and is said to mean "How the south wind made a large water where many blackbirds chatter."

Q. Who were the Druids? H. F.

A. The Druids were priests of the ancient Britons, acting also as physicians, educators, astrologers, magicians and lawgivers.

Q. What is a good treatment for inflammation caused by poison ivy? F. D. W.

A. One of the best treatments is bathing with salt water, sea water preferred. Boric acid, one teaspoonful in a glass of hot water, is a good application. The large blisters should be punctured and should be bathed with warm water, carefully dried without rubbing, and the boric acid treatment resumed.

Q. What is the longest canal in the world? F. F. V.

A. The Grand canal of China. This canal is one thousand miles long, extending from Hangchow to Peking. It is about 2,500 years old, and has been partly filled with mud from the overflow of the Yellow river, but is still a busy waterway. It is now to be dredged and improved by American engineers.

Q. How many stars are there in the heavens? T. S. S.

A. The naval observatory says that the best optical means which human genius can devise show from a billion to a billion and a half stars, and this number is supposed to be close to the total number of existing stars. However, only about 2,500 can be seen even on the clearest, frostiest night, by the naked eye.

Q. How many men by the name of Smith were in the army? Y. T. C.

A. There were more Smiths in the army than men of any other name. These totaled over 51,000. Second in the list stood the Johnsons, numbering 29,000. There were about 22,000 each

of Greene and Joneses, 9,000 Browns and 4,500 Cohens. There were 74 George Washingtons, 75 Robert E. Lees and two Abraham Lincolns.

Q. How do casualties at the battle of Argonne-Meuse, the engagement of the world war in which Americans participated, compare with the casualties at the deadliest battles of the civil war? R. W. H.

A. American casualties at Argonne-Meuse were 14.3 per cent of those engaged. At Gettysburg the casualties were 20 per cent at Murrefreesboro, 22 per cent at Shiloh, 24 per cent, and at Chickamauga, 28 per cent.

Q. How widespread is the use of the metric system in the world, with the exception of England and the United States. All the Latin-American countries, for instance, use it. It has been officially adopted by China. The American expeditionary force found it necessary to use it in France. The war has given impetus to a campaign for its adoption by the United States, which is now being vigorously pushed.

Q. What was the greatest number of men in the United States army during the Civil war? M. C. M.

A. The highest figure reached was 1,060,962 officers and men.

Q. Did the American Red Cross care for the American soldiers wounded in France? R. F.

A. Yes. They were cared for by the medical corps of the army with its own enlisted personnel and nurse corps.

Q. Who originated the daylight saving plan? D. J. G.

A. The idea was originated by Benjamin Franklin. The modern proposal came first from an Englishman, William Willett, in 1907, who published a pamphlet called "Waste of Daylight."

Q. Is it a mark of disrespect to bury the United States flag in the coffin of a civilian? M. P. M.

A. There is no ruling of the war department against burying the flag with either a soldier or a civilian. It is not the custom to bury it with soldiers. An American civilian dying abroad might quite properly have a flag buried with him. The good taste of burying the flag with a civilian who had rendered no special service under it might be questioned.

Q. Does a candidate for admission to West Point Military academy have to agree to serve in the army for a definite period? T. T. M.

A. Before receiving his warrant of appointment he is required to sign an agreement to serve in the army for eight years from the time of admission to the academy.

Q. How many Civil war soldiers are there on the United States pension roll? K. W. V.

A. On June 30, 1919, there were 271,351 Civil war veterans receiving pensions from the government. At the same time there were 283,244 widows of Civil war veterans on the pension roll. While the number of pensioned veterans keeps decreasing at the rate of about 25,000 a year, the number of widows shows an increase each year.

(Any reader can get the answer to any question by writing The News Scimitar information bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, director, Washington, D. C. This offer applies strictly to information on legal, medical, and financial matters. It does not attempt to settle domestic troubles, nor to undertake exhaustive research on any subject. Give full name and address and enclose two-cent stamp for return postage. Write your question plainly and briefly. All replies are sent direct to the inquirer.)

PARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?

French has always been the language of diplomacy, of courtesy. The world around it has been the language which one was sure to find most readily in popularity in recent decades.

WE OFFER A FREE BOOKLET ON FRENCH. The American knows English already. With an additional familiarity with French he would be pretty well at home in any part of the world. The isolation of America is becoming a thing of the past. The American has got to get away from being a one-language man. He has world responsibilities, world opportunities.

When the marine corps sent its forces to France it made a little book for each man, a French vocabulary. With customary marine corps directness it got into that book the words that one needs most to acquire an easy working knowledge of the language.

The Washington information bureau of The News Scimitar is able to furnish these books, free of charge, to any reader. Fill out the coupon, cut it out, mail as indicated, enclosing a 2-cent stamp for return postage, and the easy road to conversational French is before you put down this paper. (Fill out the coupon. Write legibly. Mail it to Washington.)

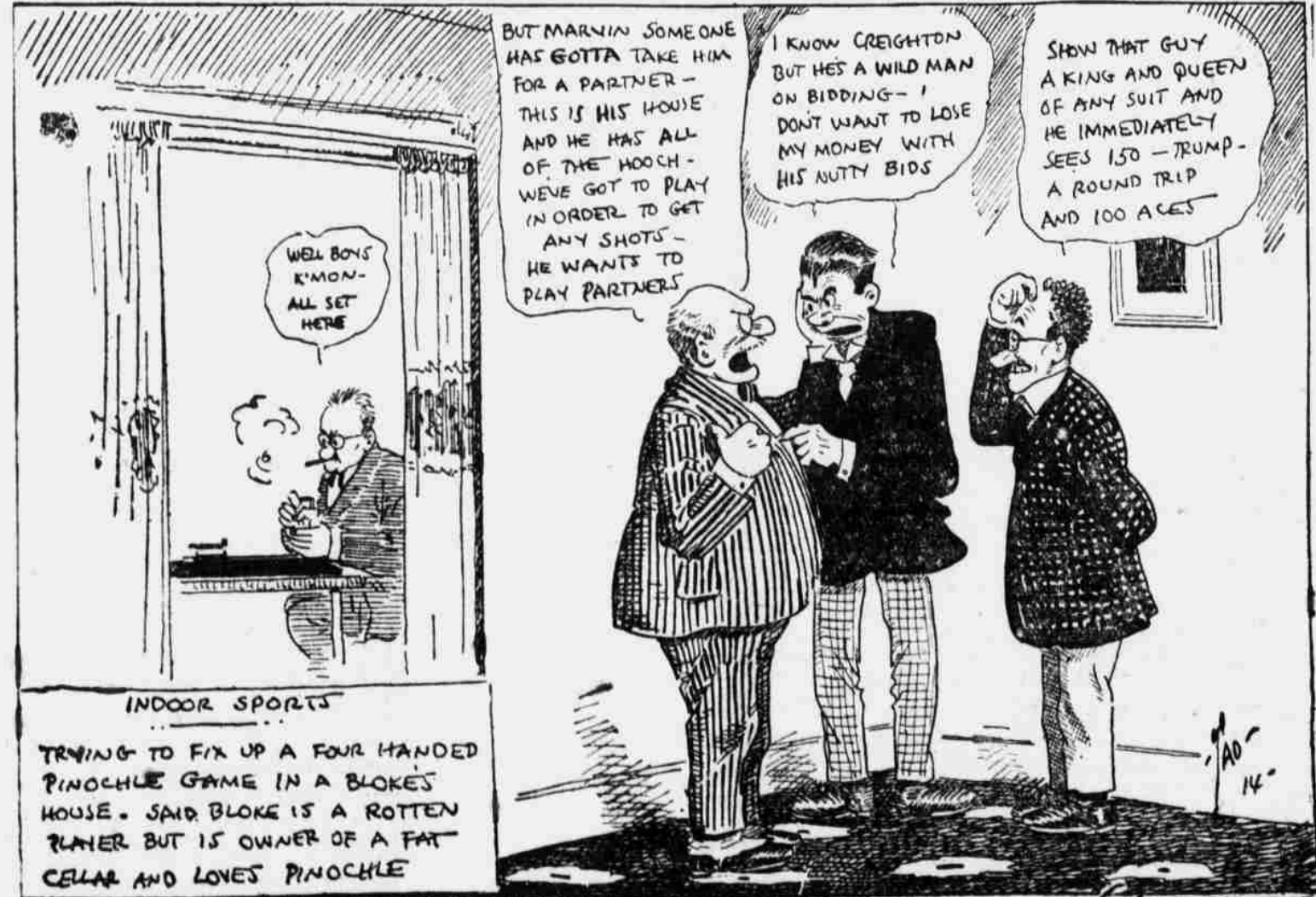
THE MEMPHIS NEWS SCIMITAR INFORMATION BUREAU

Frederic J. Haskin, Director.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

I inclose herewith 2 cents for return postage for a copy of the French vocabulary.

Name.....
Street Address.....
City..... State.....



INDOOR SPORTS
TRYING TO FIX UP A FOUR HANDED PINOCCHLE GAME IN A BLOKE'S HOUSE. SAID BLOKE IS A ROTTEN PLAYER BUT IS OWNER OF A FAT CELLAR AND LONES PINOCCHLE

Ye Editor Nods

Joits and Jestis
Slipped Past
The Blue Pencil

HAPPY NEW ERA

IT'S UPON US!

HIS LAST DROP.

Bill Statton will drink his last drop at Loew's Lyceum next week. For the information of those seeking it, "His Last Drop" is a sketch purely fictitious and the Bill Statton involved is not from Memphis.

MIXED METAPHOR.

W. Vannah Taylor, that dilettante of the English language and master over the publicity destinies of the Orpheum theater, in announcing next week's bill says there will be a "constellation of stars of the first magnitude" on the program. He then adds that the "proof of the pudding is in the eating" and hereof "Star diet is a new one on us."

MORE MIXTURE.

Which reminds one of the peroration of an orator in the Indiana legislature who said:

"My countrymen, the apple of discord is sown in an arid and if allowed to burst into flame it will sweep over the country and engulf it in a besom of destruction."

SWAN SONG.

Reginald de Koven is dead. A distinct loss to the pleasure of the world. A conjurer-up of harmony, a master in the blending of sound waves, some utilitarians inclined to disparage the work of a dreamer, yet saw a life such as his might better have been spent on "practical" things, but what more eminently practical than music of the De Koven school?

Music which inspires one to higher ideals, music which makes one forget the meaner things of life, music which brings forth the fancy visions of immortality, perhaps, disquisitions elevate one beyond the petty jealousies of life, beyond the tendencies to belittle the life of others, visions which make one bigger, better, broader, more able to cope with a smile against the "arrows and slings of an outrageous fortune," and even the "thousand mortal ills that flesh is heir to."

Music, impractical! Armies need music as they need food. So do all of us.

De Koven was a creator. The world is better for his having lived.

NUMERICAL.

There was a young fellow named Tate who dined with his girl at 8:08; But I can't lose ten; What this fellow named Tate And his tete-a-tete ate at 8:08.

ANOTHER.

A Chink whose name was Wun Wun. Sat up and played fan-tan for fun; But he stuck to it—then— Wun Wun won one at 1:01.

APPROPRIATE.

Vannah Taylor again evinces his sense of the fitness of things for the announcement that Laurette and Duppe, on the Orpheum bill next week, are "sand workers." The sand is dried in the form of beautiful paintings by the means of a blower. Thus do we wet and wet and then dry and dry and dry.

FURTHER EVIDENCE

OF THE INANIMITY

OF PROHIBITIONISTS

Even the crepe placed on the desk of one addicted to the cup that cheers by some of his prohibitionally inclined fellow workers evinces the lack of the sense of fitness of things for the bow of ribbons in honor of the John Barleycorn, whose age runneth past the understanding of man, instead of the dead black for such an old and venerable person was a Priscilla, Aiden gray.

REQUIEM.

Here's the poem accompanying John's floral offering. If we get time we'll answer it today, if not, tomorrow:

LINES TO AN OLD FRIEND.
Good-bye, old friend of mine, good-bye; Good-bye, old pal, forever— For there's a time in every life When partnership discover. Long have I been a pal of yours; Aye, closer than a brother; Long have I been your workhorse; With love like any mother. But we must part, old buddy mine, And share the fate of all. It is because of Uncle Sam BUT NOT BECAUSE OF ME.

PERHAPS.

However, so much of the brand of John Barleycorn imbued lately was recently from the copious rain that perhaps after all gray was the right color. Anyhow, we're going to have to live with prohibitionists for the rest of our days, so probably now that the fashion runneth to hypocrisy we might as well be one, too.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE. Ed Spencer, who furnished the crepe,

MOVING PICTURES.

SAVOY

Today and Saturday

CHARLES RAY

—IN—

"The Honorable Algy"

Another one of the amusing, always likeable Ray pictures.

PRINCESS

Today and Saturday

HARRY CAREY

—IN—

"A Gun Fightin' Gentleman"

In which Harry Carey proves that he can make love as gallantly as he rides, and can play as straight as he shoots.

GUIOMAR NOVAES, Pianist

Second Recital of SERIES OF FOUR ARTIST PIANO RECITALS

GOODWYN INSTITUTE

JANUARY 17

At 2 O'Clock

Auspices: MEMPHIS MUSICAL BUREAU

Single Tickets \$2.00, including war tax.

Tickets on sale at O. K. Heuck Piano Co., by Mrs. Jason Walker.

always used to be a good brand of Old Crow in his locker.

Wynn Collier, of the Overton Park Zoo, in his big roundup of a pair of female elk, might get real rough and use two horns of sugar.

Or why not imitate the cooing of the male elk during the "mating season," as our bucolic poet puts it.

SKATES.

Vermon home skaters are skating back and forth across the Canadian border, we are told.

Bring skates on skates, eh?

A Line On Men

You Read About

All Canadians' eyes are turned toward the newest "Cincinnati" in the person of Ernest Drury, who, following the recent, former success at the polls, has been called to the post of prime minister of Ontario.

Drury is a real farmer. All his life he has worked like a mule on his 250 acres in the Lake Simcoe area. From dawn to dark he has pursued the great physical vigor and the temperance of a fighter, he has prospects of a bright career.

Drury, unlike some other workers suddenly raised to fame and power, will never desert the point of view of his old associates. He is a graduate of an agricultural college and has been active in farmers' movements and politics, though chiefly in the winter time, when things were quiet on his farm. He knows how to wear a dress suit, and on the platform carries himself like a veteran both as to manner and as to matter. As a debater and controversialist he has not many equals. With youth—his is only 41 years old—he has the physical vigor and the temperance of a fighter, he has prospects of a bright career.

Ernest C. Drury, who followed the recent, former success at the polls, has been called to the post of prime minister of Ontario.

It must not be supposed that Drury resembles the "rube" or "hayseed" of the funny papers. He has mixed with the world. He is a graduate of an agricultural college and has been active in farmers' movements and politics, though chiefly in the winter time, when things were quiet on his farm. He knows how to wear a dress suit, and on the platform carries himself like a veteran both as to manner and as to matter. As a debater and controversialist he has not many equals. With youth—his is only 41 years old—he has the physical vigor and the temperance of a fighter, he has prospects of a bright career.

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A PARADOXICAL PARADISE

I have a little cottage. Where roses climb around, And a pretty little garden, Where the flowers bloom around. The sky is very azure, And I am sure, sure, For while the dew is falling, The rent is due.

—Cartoons Magazine.

A checked card generally leads to stripes.—Cartoons Magazine.

THEATERS.